

Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Day 1 – Tuesday, December 6, 2016

I. Call to Order

Dr. Tung Nguyen, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), calls to order the meeting of the Commission at 1:00 PM on December 6, 2016, at the U.S. Department of Education PCP Office, 550 12th Street SW, Washington D.C. 20202.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Dr. Tung Nguyen

Bill Imada

Jake Fitisemanu, Jr.

Lorna Randlett

Lian Cheun

Dr. Mary Okada

Linda Phan

Lian Cheun

Daphne Kwok

Michael Byun

Dr. Nina Ahmad

Kathy Ko Chin

Dr. Paul Watanabe

Maulik Pancholy

Sanjita Pradhan

Bo Thao-Urabe

WHIAAPI Staff: Doua Thor, Christine Harley, Diana Yu, Justin Trinidad, Akil Vohra, Jennifer Tran, Dave Hung, Courtney Chappell, Esther Kang, Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, Helly Lee, Rebecca Lee, Bessie Chan

Guests: Janet Nuzum, Alice Tong

III. Agenda Review

Overview of Agenda:

- A. 1:30 PM Commissioner Updates
- B. 2:15 PM Transition Documents and Policy Framework for the Next Administration
- C. 3:00 PM Regional Network Discussion
- D. 3:30 PM Infrastructure and Staff Changes in the Transition
- E. 4:00 PM Closing

IV. Commissioner Updates

Commissioners discuss updates and issues that they have heard from the national AAPI community.

- Opportunities for collaboration with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics
- The increase of hate crimes targeting members of the AAPI community
- The status of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program

V. Transition Documents and Policy Framework for the Next Administration

In September 2015, the Commission identified a sub-committee to assist WHIAAPI staff in developing a blueprint legacy report. The sub-committee consisted of Dr. Tung Nguyen, Kathy Ko Chin, Dr. Paul Watanabe, Dee Jay Mailer, Linda Phan, Sanjita Pradhan, and Bo Thao-Urabe. The work of the sub-committee was reaffirmed in May 2016 by a vote of the Commission.

- The Commission Chair proposes a vote: Is the Commission in agreement with the work of the subcommittee in preparing a draft Commission Blueprint report?
 - The vote is seconded by Linda Phan
 - The vote is unanimous YES.

Updates on the Commission Blueprint

- The Blueprint is currently undergoing the clearance process
- We anticipate being able to publish the Blueprint before the end of the Obama Administration, by January 19th.
- If the Blueprint is only recommendations from the Commissioners, then the Blueprint will not be published until a final copy is approved by the Commission.

WHIAAPI will put a 15-day registrar notice in the Federal Registrar and hold an open Commission teleconference meeting to vote to approve publication of the Blueprint.

- If the Blueprint includes information on programming, etc. from WHIAAPI then the Federal Registrar notice is not necessary.
- The Blueprint will be shared as a PDF and will include links to the WHIAAPI legacy videos and key policy documents.

Commissioners volunteered for specific policy briefs to revise:

- Increasing Diversity Within the Federal Workforce – Lorna Randlett, Maulik Pancholy, Daphne Kwok
- Women and Girls – Lorna Randlett, Dr. Nina Ahmad, Lian Cheun, Linda Phan, Bo Thao-Urabe
- Philanthropic Engagement – Lorna Randlett, Linda Phan, Kathy Ko Chin, Shekar Narasimhan
- Engaging with NHPIs – Kathy Ko Chin, Jake Fitisemanu, Jr., Dr. Mary Okada, Dee Jay Mailer
- Service Workers and Veterans – Ravi Chaudhary
- Improving Language Access to Federal Programs – Kathy Ko Chin, Jake Fitisemanu, Jr., Sanjita Pradhan, Maulik Pancholy
- Immigration Reform – Dr. Nina Ahmad, Sanjita Pradhan, Dr. Paul Watanabe, Michael Byun
- Advancing Educational Opportunities – Lian Cheun, Maulik Pancholy, Lorna Randlett, Bo Thao-Urabe
- Data Disaggregation – Kathy Ko Chin, Jake Fitisemanu, Jr., Dr. Paul Watanabe
- Capacity Building – Bill Imada, Sanjita Pradhan, Kathy Ko Chin
- Business – Bill Imada, Michael Byun, Shekar Narasimhan
- Review Process: Chris Harley will be responsible for implementing edits from the Commissioners. Comments are due to Chris Harley no later than December 12th.
- The Blueprint will be publicly posted for the current and next Administration to refer to.
- The incoming Administration has posted a form to submit names for Commissioners to the next administration
 - WHIAAPI is required to pass on all documents to the next Administration. This includes the Blueprint with recommendations on issues as well as the impact of federal programming.

- Additionally, the 2016 Agency Progress Report will be coming out shortly. The progress report will detail what agencies have done and will continue to do for the AAPI community
- Commissioners are interested in submitting a letter to the next Administration. Staff will check to see if it can be done in their official capacities as Commissioners.
 - Bill Imada, Lorna Randlett, Dr. Mary Okada, Michael Byun, and Kathy Ko Chin volunteer to draft a letter template.
- Commissioners ask for updates on the Affordable Care Act and the impact on AAPI communities. Staff responded:
 - Overall, we're uncertain what will happen to the legislation.
 - However, we can assure communities that health plans will last through next year's enrollment period.
- Commissioners asked for updates regarding DACA. Staff responded:
 - The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has said that they are uncertain what will happen to DACA after January 20th, 2017.
- Director of Strategic Initiatives Akil Vohra shares an update on a federal register notice from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) examining race and ethnicity categories.
 - There will likely be another federal register notice coming out soon
 - We are hoping for a 60-day comment period to have responses from community.
 - As the process moves along, comments submitted to OMB must be more thorough and sophisticated to offer a nuanced approach to the federal register notice.

VI. Regional Network Discussion

Courtney Chappell, Deputy Director of WHIAAPI, gives an overview of the accomplishments of the Regional Network (RN). WHIAAPI has been working to make sure the Regional Network will be able to function independently moving forward. Two new RN Co-Chairs have been selected: Dave Hung and Paul Chang. The immediate past Co-Chairs were Renard Murray and Danny Pasquil.

VII. Infrastructure and Staff Changes in the Transition

WHIAAPI staff discusses staff transitions and changes through the remainder of the Administration.

- There will be 3 career staff: Akil Vohra, Diana Yu, and Rebecca Lee
 - Diana Yu will be the interim Executive Director after January 20th, 2017.
 - Helly Lee and Doua Thor are political appointees whose appointments will end on January 19th, 2017.

VIII. Closing

Dr. Tung Nguyen reviews the Commission's activities and agenda for the next day. The meeting adjourns at 4:00 PM.

Meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Day 2 – Wednesday, December 7, 2016

I. Call to Order

Dr. Tung Nguyen, Chair of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), calls to order the meeting of the Commission at 8:30 AM on December 7, 2016, at the U.S. Department of Education PCP Office, 550 12th Street SW, Washington D.C. 20202.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Dr. Tung Nguyen

Bill Imada

Jake Fitisemanu, Jr.

Lorna Randlett

Lian Cheun

Dr. Mary Okada

Linda Phan

Lian Cheun

Daphne Kwok

Michael Byun
Dr. Nina Ahmad
Kathy Ko Chin
Dr. Paul Watanabe
Maulik Pancholy
Sanjita Pradhan
Bo Thao-Urabe
Ravi Chaudhury

Staff: Doua Thor, Christine Harley, Diana Yu, Justin Trinidad, Akil Vohra

Guests: Janet Nuzum, Dr. Vivek Murthy, Parag Metha, Chris Lu, Kiran Ahuja

III. Agenda Review

Overview of Agenda:

- A. 8:30 AM Welcome – Review of Agenda & Recap of Previous Day
- B. 9:00 AM Experiences in Transition Part 1
- C. 10:00 AM WHIAAPI Leadership During Transition
- D. 11:00 AM Experiences in Transition Part 2
- E. 11:45 AM Adjournment

IV. Welcome – Review of Agenda & Recap of Previous Day

V. Experiences in Transition Part 1

Chris Lu, Deputy Secretary of Labor, discusses his involvement in helping reauthorize the current form of WHIAAPI and his experiences transitioning into the Obama Administration as Deputy Secretary.

- Deputy Secretary Lu noted that language for the Executive Order was developed by multiple people at the White House during his period.
- Deputy Secretary Lu also advised that timing was important. During his tenure, it took months for the Initiative to be re-established and set up; that will likely happen again.

- Deputy Secretary Lu thanked the WHIAAPI staff and Commission for their service and remarked that WHIAAPI has done tremendous work to advance progress for AAPI communities.

VI. WHIAAPI Leadership During Transition

Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy speaks with the Commission in his role as a Co-Chair of WHIAAPI. The Surgeon General's term lasts four years and will flow into the next Administration. The Surgeon General highlights the following key issues that he hopes to work on with the next Administration.

- AAPI data disaggregation, particularly ACA enrollment data
- Language access, particularly in HHS programs and ACA enrollment

The Surgeon General plans to continue championing issues that he has already committed to and wants to continue to serve as co-chair of the Initiative

VII. Experiences in Transition Discussion Part 2

Parag Mehta, Chief of Staff to the Surgeon General, speaks on his experiences as staff in transition between the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

- During the Clinton Administration, WHIAAPI existed in HHS with a strong focus on public health. Shamina Singh was the first Executive Director.
- During the Bush Administration, WHIAAPI moved over to the Department of Commerce with support from Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao. John Duong was the first Executive Director.
- Having career staff is important to make sure that the transition will run smoothly.
- Mehta worked in both the Clinton and Bush Administrations and was able to help familiarize new appointees with past programming.
- Since WHIAAPI only existed for one year at the time of the Clinton-Bush transition, there was not much information to be transferred over to the Bush Administration. Now that WHIAAPI has been around longer, it is important to think about how to pass on knowledge about activities implemented and lessons learned.

Alissa Ko, Senior Associate Director at the White House Office of Public Engagement (OPE) speaks to the Commission on White House priorities. Ko thanks the Commission for all the great work they have done during this Administration. She also shared the following:

- There are designated people who are in charge of communicating with the incoming transition team at the White House.
 - Meetings have covered immigration, bullying, and hate crimes.
 - There is no information on what will happen to current programs such as DACA and the ACA.
- In the meantime, OPE continues engaging with the community. They will be convening a group of Japanese American internees, Muslim American community leaders, and other AAPI advocates to discuss the connections across history and lessons learned.

VI. Closing

Dr. Tung Nguyen thanks the entire staff and Commission for their service. He reiterates the tremendous work that was accomplished in these last few years and encourages everyone to keep in contact. The meeting adjourns at 12 PM.